

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #155

**DISCERNING THE TIMES:
THE SONS OF ISSACHAR**

And of the children of Issachar, who were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...

1st Chronicles 12:32a

Issachar was the ninth son of Jacob and the fifth by Leah. According to Herbert Lockyer, there is no word in the Bible recorded about Issachar as an individual except those words announcing his birth. His name means “hire”. Leah named him *Issachar* because she saw him as a kind of payment from the Lord to her personally. When Israel was fighting a war with the Canaanites, it was the sons of Issachar who were fighting and risking their lives while the other brothers were leisurely looking after sheep and at ease. The sons of Issachar were very strong, but they too at times became at ease and did not rise up and help their country. It is a dangerous thing to be strong in the Lord, a part of the Zion Company, and to be at ease in Zion. We desperately need sons of Issachar today, as Brandon has told us, who understand these most incredible times and know what to do, and who do not sit back at ease and let others do all the work.

Woe to them that are at ease in Zion. Amos 6:1

Important Scriptures for These Times

1. Why do the nations assemble with commotions [uproar and confusion of voices] and why do the people imagine (mediate upon and devise) an empty scheme? 2. The kings of the earth take their places; the rulers take counsel against the Lord and His Anointed One (the Messiah, the Christ). They say, 3. “Let us break Their bands [of restraint] asunder and cast Their cords [of control] from us.” 4. He Who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision [and in supreme contempt He mocks them]. 5. He speaks to them in His deep anger and troubles (terrifies and confounds them in His displeasure and fury, saying, 6. “Yet have I anointed (installed and placed) My King [firmly] on My holy hill of Zion.” 7. I will declare the decree of the Lord. He said to Me, “You are My Son; this day [I declare] I have begotten You. 8. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession. 9. You shall break them

*with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like potter's ware."*10. Now, therefore, O you kings, act wisely; be instructed and warned, O you rulers of the earth. 11. Serve the Lord with reverent awe and worshipful fear; rejoice and be in high spirits with trembling [lest you displease Him]. 12. Kiss the Son [pay homage to Him in purity], lest He be angry and you perish in the way, for soon shall His wrath be kindled. O blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are all those who seek refuge and put their trust in Him! **PSALM 2**

According to C.I. Scofield, this Psalm gives the order of the establishment of the Kingdom. First, the rage and vain imaginations against the Lord by the Jews and Gentiles against the Lord and His Anointed, the Messiah, which culminated in the crucifixion; secondly, the derision of Almighty God against men who think they can put aside His covenant; thirdly, the dispersion of the Jews fulfilled partially in the destruction of Jerusalem and more fully in the tribulation; fourthly, the establishment of the rejected King upon Zion; fifthly, the subjection of the earth to the King's rule; and sixthly, the present appeal to the world powers.

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*Behold, the days come saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord and shall not find it. **Amos 8:11-12***

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*Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants the prophets. **Amos 3:7***

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*...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. **Revelation 19:10b***

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*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool. **Psalms 110:1**, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13)*

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*Come my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth also shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain. **Isaiah 26:20-21***

Larry Randolph

Urgent: The Court of Heaven is in Session. It's time for the church to get on their face-the verdict is not in yet. In 2005 I was visited by an Angel of the Lord who showed me a string of events that would unfold beginning in 2007 through the end of 2012. One of the most striking predictions was his proclamation that, "The economy of this nation will go down a long, dark hill." Among many other things, the angel also informed me that in the same year I saw the deaths of many Hollywood celebrities, it would signify the end of an era and the beginning of change in the nation. I shared these things in a few meetings but felt that I should not yet release the details of the visitation on a national scale. Then in July of 2008, the Lord informed me that a "perfect storm" would hit the nation in the middle of September and that it would be the beginning of the economic collapse the angel revealed to me in 2005. Again, I was reluctant to draw national attention to the coming events and purposely restricted the prophetic word to a small number of conferences. Although the prediction came to pass around the 15th of September 2008, part of my reluctance to give the prophetic word was due to much of the negativity that is often associated with a number of prophetic ministries. As one called to encourage the Church prophetically, I tend to shy away from anything that sounds like "gloom and doom" and often wait for God to show me the redemptive value of what is happening.

That being said, however, I now feel an urgency to sound the alarm that unprecedented events are approaching us on many levels. We are at the end of the "holding pattern" we have experienced this year and are about to enter another season of change and great shaking. In fact, there is a "super-shift" coming that is truly bittersweet and will ultimately reveal the best of times and the worst of times. In view of the sobering times we are approaching, I have decided to release a prophetic word that I recently delivered at Grace Center, my home church in Franklin, Tennessee. As you'll hear in the prophecy, the shift begins this September, continuing throughout October, and will gain both momentum and velocity by December 31st. Interestingly, the 31st is a "blue moon" night that is an astronomical rarity-thus the phrase "once in a blue moon."

Also, a part of my decision to release the following prophecy is related to yet another encounter I had in August. Around the middle of the month, I had a vision of a 5.0 earthquake that would mark the beginning of a critical shift. I also saw a greater shaking that was to follow in the near future. The next day, I called my friend Bob Jones who confirmed that he was also feeling "a trembling" in the Earth. Several days after our conversation, there was a 5.0 earthquake in Alaska on August 19th, which confirmed to me

the importance of the vision. And, if I am interpreting correctly what I feel and see, there is yet a seven-fold shaking of greater magnitude coming that will produce enormous and perhaps catastrophic disruptions on economic, political, geophysical, atmospheric, and spiritual levels.

However, the good news is that God is unfailingly redemptive, no matter what events unfold in the world. According to the Prophet Isaiah, when darkness invades the Earth, the glory of God is certain to arise upon His people. Although we are entering uncertain and turbulent waters, remember that the challenges we face can affect us for good or for bad. When God shook the fountains of the deep in Noah's day, for example, the flood had both negative and positive implications for that generation. For those outside the ark it was devastating, but for those inside the ark, it was liberating. So depending on your posture in Christ, the coming days can either be the best of times or the worst of times.

(FROM The High Point Church Scepter who got this from the Elijah List, September 1st, 2009-<http://www.elijahlist.com>)

Bob Jones

On September 5th I was sitting on a train and noticed that all those on the train were also seated. They were all shepherds and each one had a special seat assignment. Their seats were assigned by the Holy Spirit, and they knew what they were called to do. As the train was traveling, I asked the Conductor "what is this train?" He said it was the GLORY TRAIN, and He gave me a capsule. It was a TIME CAPSULE, and it was shaped like an egg. It had new life in it! It had the beginning and the end of time in it. For time was created for man, not man for time. I asked the Conductor "When can I open this egg and when will this train arrive?" He said the time was within the egg, and the egg will be opened in 2012. So we need to keep sitting in the seat that He has given us. Sitting speaks of rest so we need to rest in what He's called us to be. I knew a few people that were seated on the train with me but there were far more that I didn't know. So we are all going in the same direction and we'll see the glory train come in the next 3 years. The time capsule has the WISDOM OF THE AGES in it, from the beginning to the new beginning. We're coming to the end of the old in 3 years and the birthing of the new and the glory of God falling upon the churches. (Also from High Point's Scepter)

David Wilkerson

It is only the mercy of the Lord that delays judgment. And right now America is benefitting from that mercy. Incredibly, our country is in a race with the rest of the world to remove God and Christ from society. Yet the Lord will not be mocked; his mercies endure forever, and he loves this nation. I believe that is why he's still pouring out blessings on us. His desire is that goodness will lead us to repentance (see Romans 2:4). We are not to despair over the present condition in America. We grieve over the awful corruption, mockery and sin, but we have hope, knowing God is in full control. We know the mercies of God endure forever.

Robert Ricciardelli from Elijah List

I do not think it has come to any surprise to most of us that there is a whole lot of shaking going on. Hebrews 12 talks about all that can be shaken will be shaken; so all that remains is the unshakable. As I look at unshakable possibilities, the only thing that comes to mind is Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the unshakable, unmovable, and glorious Kingdom of God. False foundations, paradigms, illegitimate structures, systems, and limitations must bow to the Father's Kingdom. His kingdom is perpetually coming to earth, and one day will fill the earth in Father's glory, as the water covers the sea. The Kingdom of God is within us, without us, and whether we are noticing it or not, will continue to break through on earth as it is in Heaven. The shaking must happen, and yet those who desire to live in His inheritance that Christ paid for will see His glory now, in the midst of the natural chaos that is seemingly all around them.

Ryan Wyatt from the Elijah List

Just recently, I had a spiritual experience with a vivid vision of the "perfect storm" that the earth is now experiencing. In my spiritual experience, the Lord showed me that the only hope for our times was when we 'seek first the Kingdom,' even in the midst of the distracting and mounting storm of adversity around us. Isaiah 33:5-6 says this: "The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with justice and righteousness. And He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is his treasure." The Lord is going to teach us, as born-again Believers, that our only source of stability is God and God alone. Sometimes a shaking of everything in our lives is required in order for us to end up putting our trust, hope and faith in God as our sole source of stability. Jesus said in John 16:33: "These things

I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Some Good News

And a highway shall be there and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those, the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon; it shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35

Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

But Zion said, The LORD forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold I have engraved thee upon the palms of my hands....

Isaiah 49:14-16

Therefore, the redeemed of the LORD shall return and come with singing unto Zion, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head; they shall obtain gladness and joy and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. I, even I, am He who comforteth you. Who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die and of the son of man who shall be made like grass.

Isaiah 51:11-12

**In Loving Memory
Of
Jared Daniels**

**It's Not Easy to Say Good-bye
Lionel Richie**

I wanted you for life, you and me in the wind.
I never thought there'd come a time that our story would end.
It's hard to understand, but I guess I'll have to try.
It's not easy to say good-bye.

For all the joy we shared-All the time we had to spend.
Now if I had one wish, I'd want forever back again.
To look into your eyes and hold you when you cry.
It's not easy to say good-bye.

I can remember all those great times we had.
There were so many memories-some good and some bad.
Yes, and through it all, those memories will last-Forever.
There's peace in where you are-maybe all I need to know-
And if I listen to my heart, I'll hear your laughter once more.

And so I've got to say, I'm just glad you came my way.
It's not easy to say goodbye.
Goodbye.